

suggestion in making several pharmaceutical preparations which require heat in the formation. It is believed that lobelia inflata has yet to receive from professional men that share of attention which it deserves, and it is hoped by presenting to the practitioner the virtues of the plant in a condensed form, that he will take up the subject.

Acetous Extract of Lobelia inflata.—Take of lobelia seed, bruised, eight ounces; diluted alcohol, four pints; acetic acid, one fluid ounce. Macerate the bruised seed in the diluted alcohol, to which the acetic has been added, for forty-eight hours, then throw the whole on a displacement filter, and after the liquid has ceased to pass, add sufficient diluted alcohol, that four pints of tincture shall be obtained. Evaporate this by means of a water bath, until it attains the consistence of an extract. The product thus obtained is about one eighth of the seed employed. In this form (as a pill) lobelia can be administered without that peculiar disagreeable effect upon the fauces, so characteristic of its exhibition in the form of tincture.

Vinegar of Lobelia inflata.—Take of lobelia, in powder, four ounces; diluted acetic acid or distilled vinegar, a pint and a half. Macerate the lobelia in the dilute acid, for twelve hours, and subject it to displacement on a proper filter, until twenty-four fluid ounces are obtained.

Syrup of Lobelia inflata.—Take of vinegar of lobelia, six fluid ounces; sugar, twelve ounces. Dissolve the sugar in the vinegar by the aid of heat, remove the scum which rises, and strain.

The oxymel may be prepared from the vinegar in the same manner as oxymel of squills; and a combination of the two has been highly spoken of by a physician of this city, in catarrhal affections.

In making an infusion of lobelia, some acid—vinegar, for instance—should always be added.—*Amer. Jour. of Pharmacy.*

HYDRARGYRUM CUM CRETA.

BY JAMES HAMILTON, M.D., BALTIMORE.

THIS medical preparation has fallen into partial disuse by the physician for some time past, in consequence of not fulfilling the indications in which it is often prescribed. It had been frequently observed that, when administered in the diseases of children, in which, from its nature, or perhaps from former use, it was deemed particularly applicable, instead of producing the effect of a mild antacid and alterative, violent continued emesis has been the result, to the risk of the patient and the confusion of the physician. Occasionally another variety of it would have the most delightful effect, and unaccompanied by any emetic property; but in consequence of the risk incurred in producing violent action in very young children, and the comparative uncertainty of its operation, this invaluable preparation is now seldom prescribed, and in lieu of it the pil-hydrargyri with carb. calcis. generally substituted. Of the merit of the latter combination it is not proposed to say aught, but simply to state facts as they have occurred in relation to the hydrargyrum cum creta in numerous instances.

Having been alarmed frequently by the repeated emesis consequent on the administration of this substance, it occurred to me to examine it for the purpose of ascertaining the existence of any impurities; all the specimens bore the stamp of a celebrated London house, were smooth to the eye and touch, and on examination with a lens, no metallic globules were apparent; they were of the proper peculiar greyish blue color, and nothing could be detected whereby any fault could be attached to the article in question. Several other specimens were obtained and compared, with the same result. After witnessing its beneficial action on a young child laboring under cholera infantum, with considerable irritability of stomach, I was induced to make inquiry regarding the place where the prescription had been filled, and on comparing it with those that had been already examined, no difference still could be perceived. The mystery was, however, soon solved; as on making inquiry of the pharmacist, it was ascertained that the hyd. cum cretâ used in the prescription had been carefully prepared according to the directions in the U. S. Pharmacopœia, whereas all the other specimens that had acted violently, were traced to be of English manufacture.

Repeated use of the article since has only served to convince me, that prepared by the directions of the U. S. P. there is no safer article to children of any age, and would urge all who vend it to prepare it for themselves and abolish the use of any other.—*Maryland Medical and Surgical Journal*.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, AUGUST 24, 1842.

MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE STATE SOCIETY.

It is customary with the Massachusetts Medical Society to publish, annually, at a convenient period after the anniversary meeting, a transcript of the records, for distribution among the Fellows—and in connection, within the same cover, the discourse pronounced before the members. Within a few days, Part I. of the third volume of the second series has been circulated, and will be found quite equal to any that have preceded it. The first article, extending through seventy-six pages, is a Medical History of the County of Franklin, by Stephen W. Williams, M.D., of Deerfield, Mass., late Professor of Materia Medica, Medical Jurisprudence, &c., in Willoughby University—being the discourse delivered by him at the late anniversary meeting of the Society. Some have presumed to object to the length of this paper; but when properly read, that is, attentively, it must be admitted that the notes are not only essential to the completeness of the history the author has written, but they are remarkable for their exactness, and therefore undeniable evidence of a mind accustomed to patient statistical inquiry. If Dr. Williams had not collected the mass of local facts which are concentrated here, it is quite